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28 February 1991

Forty-fifth session
Agenda item 71

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Special Political Committee (A/45/817 and Corr.1)]

45/70. Science and peace

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 43/61 of 6 December 1988, in which it proclaimed the "International Week of Science and Peace", which would take place each year during the week in which 11 November falls,

Recognizing that this celebration has generated a series of activities and initiatives leading to the study and dissemination of information on the links between progress in science and technology and the maintenance of peace and security,

Considering that progress in science and technology profoundly affects international peace and security, economic and social development, respect for human rights and many other aspects of civilization and culture,

Considering also that political and economic decisions have a decisive effect on the direction of scientific research and the use of the results obtained thereby,

Affirming that it is necessary to promote greater awareness among scientists world wide of the usefulness of science to increase international peace, security and co-operation, the social and economic development of mankind, the promotion of human rights and the protection of the environment,

Affirming, in particular, the need for scientists to establish a free and open dialogue between one another, and with political leaders and the public in general, with regard to scientific developments and their present and potential implications for our civilization,

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Considering the importance of encouraging scientists to work towards constructive objectives, to improve the climate for arms control and disarmament, and to promote a dialogue on important topics in connection with the positive contributions that scientific knowledge can make to peace, security and ecological balance,

Considering also that the celebration each year of a special week of action devoted to the topic "Science and peace" is an important means of generating and increasing public interest in this topic,

Noting with appreciation the joint efforts made by scientists and members of other professional groups to promote the achievement of those aims through the holding of the First International Week of Scientists for Peace from 10 to 16 November 1986 and every year since then during the week in which 11 November falls,

1. Takes note with satisfaction of the report of the Secretary-General on the observance of the International Week of Science and Peace in 1989 and the wide variety of activities that took place in connection with this event; 1/

2. Urges Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to encourage universities and other institutions of advanced study, scientific academies and institutes, and professional associations and individuals in the scientific community to hold, during that Week, lectures, seminars, special debates and other activities conducive to the study and dissemination of information on the links between progress in science and technology and the maintenance of peace and security;

3. Urges Member States to promote international co-operation among scientists by facilitating exchanges of experts and information;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to draw the attention of Member States and interested organizations to the importance of the International Week of Science and Peace and invite them to report to him on their activities and initiatives in connection with this event, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session.

65th plenary meeting
11 December 1990

1/ A/45/601, sect. II.

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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Special Political Committee (A/45/687)]

45/71. Effects of atomic radiation

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 913 (X) of 3 December 1955, by which it established the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation, and its subsequent resolutions on the subject, including resolution 44/45 of 8 December 1989, in which, inter alia, it requested the Scientific Committee to continue its work,

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation, 1/

Reaffirming the desirability of the Scientific Committee continuing its work,

Concerned about the potentially harmful effects on present and future generations resulting from the levels of radiation to which man is exposed,

Conscious of the continued need to examine and compile information about atomic and ionizing radiation and to analyse its effects on man and his environment,

Bearing in mind the decision of the Scientific Committee to submit, as soon as the relevant studies are completed, shorter reports with supporting scientific documents on the specialized topics mentioned by the Committee, 2/

1/ A/45/319.

2/ A/38/142, para. 5.

1. Commends the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation for the valuable contribution it has been making in the course of the past thirty-five years, since its inception, to wider knowledge and understanding of the levels, effects and risks of atomic radiation and for fulfilling its original mandate with scientific authority and independence of judgement;

2. Notes with satisfaction the continued and growing scientific co-operation between the Scientific Committee and the United Nations Environment Programme;

3. Requests the Scientific Committee to continue its work, including its important co-ordinating activities, to increase knowledge of the levels, effects and risks of ionizing radiation from all sources;

4. Endorses the intentions and plans of the Scientific Committee for its future activities of scientific review and assessment on behalf of the General Assembly;

5. Also requests the Scientific Committee to continue at its next session the review of the important problems in the field of radiation and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session;

6. Requests the United Nations Environment Programme to continue providing support for the effective conduct of the work of the Scientific Committee and for the dissemination of its findings to the General Assembly, the scientific community and the public;

7. Expresses its appreciation for the assistance rendered to the Scientific Committee by Member States, the specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency and non-governmental organizations, and invites them to increase their co-operation in this field;

8. Invites Member States, the organizations of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations concerned to provide further relevant data about doses, effects and risks from various sources of radiation, which would greatly help in the preparation of future reports of the Scientific Committee to the General Assembly.

65th plenary meeting
11 December 1990